



# Citizen Connection

711 Pennington Avenue Havre de Grace, MD 21078

[www.havredegracemd.com](http://www.havredegracemd.com)

410-939-1800

*Citizen Connection* prepared for you since 2012  
by Laurie Dawson, Dept. of Public Works !



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Did you know you can receive your  
**Water and Sewer bill via e-mail?**  
Click on the e-Billing Registration link  
[www.havredegracemd.com](http://www.havredegracemd.com)



For the **Calendar of Events**, please visit  
[explorehavredegrace.com](http://explorehavredegrace.com)  
call 410-939-2100, or stop by the  
Visitor Center at 450 Pennington Ave.

## It's City Election time!

- City elections are held every year in the month of May.
- Every year **three** City Council seats are voted upon.
- The position of Mayor is voted upon every two years.
- All elected positions are for two-year terms.



★ **Monica A. Worrell**  
Council Member



★ **David A. Martin**  
Council Member



★ **Randolph E. Craig**  
Council Member



★ **William T. Martin**  
MAYOR

**Upcoming Election for**  
**Mayor of Havre de Grace** ★  
**and 3 City Council seats**

**TUESDAY, MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**7am to 8pm.**  
**ST. PATRICK'S**  
**CHURCH HALL**  
**615 Congress Ave.**



**Stephen J. Gamatoria**  
Council President



**David W. Glenn**  
Council Member



**Michael R. Hitchings**  
Council Member

**Are you Registered to VOTE ?**

Voter Registration Forms are available at:

- City Hall - 711 Pennington Ave.
- United States Post Office - 301 N. Juniata St.
- Harf. Co. Public Library - HdG Branch - 120 N. Union Ave.
- On-Line - <https://harfordvotes.info/>

Council Portraits: Leo P. Heppner Photography

# Citizen Connection

Spring – Summer 2017



Your City Newsletter

## A Message from Mayor William T. Martin ~



Hello Havre de Grace Citizens! Greetings from the Office of the Mayor as we welcome in the Spring season here in beautiful Havre de Grace.

Here's hoping the weather is great this Spring for all of our citizens to get out and enjoy all that makes this city the best play to live, work, and play.

A few highlights you should be sure to check out:

- The World War I Memorial has been redesigned and renovated at Tydings Park. Make sure you get a chance to see our continued commitment to honoring Havre de Grace's Veterans.
- The Tydings Park playground is in the process of being fully renovated, to include all-access playground equipment for children of all ages. The playground is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. We expect to see many young Havre de Gracians out enjoying some exercise in the park.
- Also, upgrades to David Craig Park will be completed this Spring. Here you will see our very first electric car charging station, one other initiative that supports our "Sustainable Maryland Certification".
- And finally, the long-awaited Grand Opening of the Opera House will be this June! Thank you to the citizens who voted to complete this project, which will bring amazing new art, music, theater, and other cultural experiences to our city.

Looking ahead, we are also excited for the return of some popular community events: **First Fridays - May 5<sup>th</sup> and Farmer's Market - May 6<sup>th</sup>!** Both are great events to bring folks into the downtown area which, in turn, helps our local businesses.

And, in my administration's continuing effort to bring the government's business out to the people, we have again scheduled three upcoming City Council Meetings to be held in the community. These meetings will be: **April 17<sup>th</sup> – American Legion, July 17<sup>th</sup> – Silks at Bulle Rock, and October 16<sup>th</sup> – The Maritime Museum. All meetings begin at 7:00 pm.**

My family and I look forward to seeing you out and about in our beautiful City by the Bay!

*William T. Martin, Mayor*

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~ Mark Your Calendar ~

**April 22 - Earth Day - River Sweep**

**April 22/29 - Water Plant Open House**

**April 28 - Arbor Day Celebration**  
10am Two Events - see pg. 5

**May 2 - City Election Day**  
7am - 8pm at 615 Congress Ave.  
St. Patrick's Church Hall

**May 5 - First Fridays returns!**  
Family - fun block party in our downtown - May through November.

**May 6 - Farmer's Market 9-noon**  
Hutchins Park, rain or shine.  
Saturdays through November 18th.

**May 29 - Memorial Day**  
11am Observances at Tydings Park

**July 1 - Good Bye Plastic Bags**  
See pg. 7 for details

**July 4 - National Holiday -Tuesday**  
No Trash Collected -schedule shifts the remainder of the week. No yard waste collected.

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual ~ RIVER SWEEP ~**

**In Honor of Earth Day,**  
volunteer to help clean-up the  
shoreline and roadside.

Date: **April 22** Meet at Tydings Park

Time: **8:30am - noon**

Web: <http://hitourtrails.com>

Ph: **410-457-2482** Register on-line.

Email: [brigitte@upperbaytrails.com](mailto:brigitte@upperbaytrails.com)

Organized by Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway

**and You're Invited to the City's**

## Water Plant

**OPEN HOUSE**

415 St. John Street

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**April 29<sup>th</sup>**

**10am-2pm**

**JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> HdG Celebrates !**

**2pm - Parade - Union Ave.**

**4-7:30 - Family Fun Block Party -**  
**Washington St. - from Congress Ave.**  
**to St. John Street**

**7pm - Concert at Hutchins Park**

**9:20pm - Fireworks - from river**



Erika Quesenbery-Sturgill, Acting Director of Economic Development 410-939-1800 x 1137  
erikaq@havredegracemd.com

## DUNLOP INVESTING HEAVILY IN HAVRE DE GRACE

**Dunlop Protective Footwear** has made a seven figure investment at its Harford County manufacturing facility to produce a new boot in the U.S. instead of abroad. The new Purofoot boot is a lighter, thinner version of previous models and uses the company's proprietary polyurethane technology.

The technology uses 1 million evenly distributed air bubbles to reduce about 1,000 pounds of walking weight per day, said Colin Clark, marketing manager with Dunlop. Clark said it is **the only polyurethane boot made in the United States.**

The investment at the Havre de Grace manufacturing facility went toward a machine that will help make the boot. Dunlop holds a patent on the machine and is hiring 15 people to help run it. The specific cost of the machine wasn't disclosed but it is more than \$1 million. It has already produced about 200 boots which will retail for between \$110 and \$150. Clark presented the new boot design during the Baltimore Business Journal's Future of Manufacturing event February 16, 2017.

"We are pretty excited and this should give us a unique position in the United States marketplace," said Clark. "Usually this kind of thing would be outsourced to Mexico or China, but we think this kind of internal investment is worthwhile. We're finding it to be more cost-efficient to produce, warehouse, ship and sell all from one location. The timeframe, the barrier of communicating with our manufacturing staff is a 15-foot hallway to the production floor compared to an ocean."

The company employs about 100 people in the Havre de Grace facility at 1850 Clark Rd., and 500 globally.

Tim Whittie, Director of Havre de Grace Public Works and Kerry Hall of the Havre de Grace Economic Development Advisory Board toured the facility on Thursday, March 2, along with Terri Kearney of the EDAB Board and Susquehanna Workforce Network; Karen Holt, Director of Harford County Office of Economic Development; and Eileen Frado of the Harford County Office of Economic Development.

## PAT'S PIZZERIA CELEBRATES 20TH YEAR IN HDG!

Christos Kotanidis and Kris Kane of Pat's Pizza on Revolution Street are presented with a certificate recognizing two decades, 20 years, in business in the City.



Erika Quesenbery-Sturgill, the City's Acting Director of Economic Development, recently made this presentation during Havre de Grace Restaurant Week in February.

## PADDLEWHEEL BOAT TO CALL HDG HOME!

The Black-Eyed Susan paddlewheel, billed as Baltimore's authentic paddlewheel boat for years, is moving on up – up river that is to a place of Grace in Havre de Grace from Charm City in Baltimore. The vessel is 111.5 feet long and 28 feet wide with a fully climate controlled main salon, a canopy upper deck, restrooms on both decks and a main deck with handicap accessible restrooms. The vessel will be docked at the **Havre de Grace Marine Center, 723 Water Street**, and available for private charter seven days a week in season with public cruises spring through fall.

Learn more about this exciting amenity in Havre de Grace by visiting [www.blackeyedsusanhdg.com](http://www.blackeyedsusanhdg.com) or visit the Havre de Grace Marine Center at 723 Water Street in Havre de Grace to congratulate Chris & Lachelle Scarlato on this endeavor!

## Despite 'Phil' weather is ringing registers in Havre de Grace

Punxsutawney Phil said six more weeks of winter on February 2 but the last weekend of February proved delightful and was well evidenced in Havre de Grace. The Promenade was crowded with walkers, restaurants were packed and in the shops and stores the cash register stayed busy. **One restaurant reported a 47% increase in sales over the same weekend last year.**



*It's time to say Good Bye ... and the most difficult good byes are those when you don't have a choice.*

So, no beating around the bush - Residents may **no longer use any**

**type of Plastic Bags** for curbside Yard Waste collections **beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>** in Havre de Grace.

We have already had to say our farewells to using plastic bags to hold our recyclables, now another use for these plastic bags bites the dust...

**YES, It is an inconvenience and together we share this challenge.** However, what is "new" to us, has been a common practice for others for 15-20 years. Take a look at our neighbors around the world...



● Plastic Bags Banned ● Plastic Bag Usage Fee ● Trying to Ban Plastic Bags

A plastic bag can take between **400 to 1,000 years** to break down in the environment.

**Why are more and more states and countries banning plastic bags?** Throughout the world, these non-biodegradable bags are responsible for unsightly litter, flooding, the degradation of soil, creating unnecessary expense, wasting petroleum (a non-renewable resource), and causing the deaths of hundreds of thousands of animals a year. **The Bottom Line:** Plastic bags cause more harm than good.

Although this will take some getting used to, rest assured that for every challenge, there is a solution.

**Here are three (3) ways to handle your yard trimmings ~ (In order of ease)**

**1. Mulch Mow**

*Just mow it and leave it.*  
It's really great for the lawn.

Fall leaves are just full of nutrients to help your soil.

**2. Compost**

Start a backyard compost pile.

**3. Cans, paper bags and bundle.**

**BROWN BAG IT or CAN IT.**

Residents must place yard waste loose in a can marked, "YARD WASTE" or use large yard waste PAPER bags.

**BROWN PAPER YARD WASTE BAGS AVAILABLE PRACTICALLY EVERYWHERE!**

ACE Hardware, Home Depot, LOWES, SAM's Club, Target, WalMart, and On-line, ...



**The City of Havre de Grace is exploring ways to reduce our monthly landfill charges for trash.**

**We know if each household increases their**

**Recycling, the less trash is dumped.**

***Stay Tuned... as changes may be coming!***





Timothy F. Whittie, Director of Public Works! 410-939-1800 x 1107

## HdG Middle School Students Helping to Solve a City-Wide Problem

Repeated calls for clogged sinks, toilets backing up, sewer lines clogged... **What is going on?** Fats, oils, grease or F.O.G. and "flushable" wipes are wreaking havoc on City pipes. Rarely does a week go by at the City of Havre de Grace Public Works office without a call from residents asking for help with a sewer-related problem. This costly problem is so easily preventable...it just takes a little education. With that in mind, **City employee Laurie Dawson reached out to Havre de Grace Middle School science teacher and drama club advisor Laurie Starkey to help with getting the word out.**



Mrs. Starkey immediately embraced the idea of having students develop a YouTube video to showcase the problem and the solution. She put the idea out there to her students and they quickly stepped up and said they wanted to help.

Following research and a tour of the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant, these middle school students began to define key points to include in their video and discussed ways to keep the viewers engaged. In the words of one student, "Our video needs to include scenes around our town because we are proud of our City and we want to help keep the Bay clean."

Next steps for Mrs. Starkey's students include preparing the script and video production schedule. **City Hall will hold a premier showing at an upcoming Council meeting. Stay tuned for the debut targeted for end of April.**



### Have you heard the BU-Z-Z-Z around town?

Underneath all of our roads is an interconnected network of pipes, much like a beehive. The Department of Public Works now has a data collection program - known as the **Beehive Mapping System** - that allows us to easily find the exact location of all of the underground water pipes, manholes, inlets, outfalls, stormwater drains, and sewer lines. For our crew that means no more digging through old maps, relying on memory or guessing at locations of pipes.

The Beehive program allows us to input data on locations using photographs and GIS based on coordinates. Through this system we can record what work has been done, the size and age of the pipes, what needs to be done and who is working on it. The Beehive allows us to uncover critical questions and prioritize efforts around assets and infrastructure. When all of the data being put into the Beehive mapping system is complete, current staff and generations to come will be able to follow the entire interconnected underground throughout the City.

This massive project is well worth the time and effort. As of March 10, 2017, we have inventoried over 1,500 valves and fire hydrants, 675 inlets, 20 culverts and 925 manholes. These data are being loaded into the Beehive GIS System.

We extend a special thanks to the contractor Wallace Montgomery and to DPW staff Jody Weaver, Stephanie Noye and Jeff Keithley for gathering and inputting these data.

### THE BEEHIVE IS HERE!



## FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS in THE WORKS!



Under the direction of Tim Whittie, Director of Public Works, Stormwater Management Projects are being lined up to relieve the flooding conditions that happen throughout the City. From Tydings Park to the Lock House and all along Lilly Run, projects are scheduled to help with stormwater flow and to handle run-off.

## OPERA HOUSE: Update! - OPENING DATE Planned for JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017; stay tuned for more details.

### The City of Havre de Grace - Opera House Performing Arts Center Our Mission

*To improve and enhance the quality of life for our citizens and guests through the many forms of performing arts. To insure the performing arts has a vehicle from which to inspire, nurture, challenge, amaze, educate and empower artists and audiences for generations to come.*

The Opera House Performing Arts Center is a not-for-profit facility. There are two major components in maintaining this facility.

- Building Management
- Performance Management

**Building Management:** The City has developed a draft of a Theater Use Policy for the users of the facility. Additionally, the City is responsible for maintaining the facility and its contents thus providing a venue for quality performances indefinitely. The Theater Use Policy will be available on the Opera House website once completed. A draft of the policy is available by contacting Patrick Sypolt at City Hall, 410-939-1800 x-1131, patricks@havredegracemd.com

**Performance Management:** The City will be entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Havre de Grace Arts Collective (the Collective) for performance management and to assist with procuring funding for the operation and maintenance of the facility. More specifically, the Collective will be hiring an Executive Director, whose primary charges will be attracting and scheduling performances and events for the Opera House as well as identifying and procuring funds for the operation and maintenance of the facility as well as other Collective endeavors. ***If you are interested in becoming a member of the HdG Arts Collective, please email Bill Price at: [Williamprice3rd@msn.com](mailto:Williamprice3rd@msn.com)***



Article written by Patrick Sypolt, Director of Administration



### CHIEF WALTER'S SPRING CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

410-939-2121

Spring is a great time to get outdoors but there are a few important crime prevention tips to keep in mind once the weather turns warm.

- ♦ If you are working in the back yard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard.
- ♦ Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- ♦ In warm weather personal property thefts increase. There is a tendency to leave items, such as bicycles, gardening tools, ladders, lawnmowers, and other yard tools lying around in the open. Make sure you lock up your personal property in your garage or shed; it doesn't take long for someone to ride by and quickly take your property. An open garage door or yard shed can also be inviting, keep them closed even when you're at home.



## - Back by Popular Demand - Offering 3, 4-day Sessions



**Week 1: July 17 - 20**

**Week 2: July 24 - 27**

**Week 3: July 31 - Aug. 3**

Camp is FREE and is for children between the ages of 8-11 from the Havre de Grace area.

The goals of the camp include positive interactions between children and police officers, teaching them drug and alcohol awareness, anti-smoking, avoiding strangers and firearms safety, plus teamwork and making new friends.



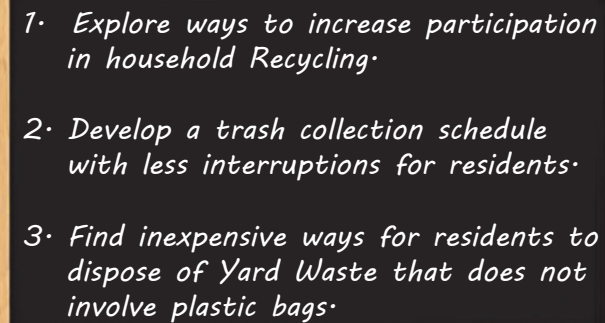
### Mayor Assigns Homework

Mayor Martin has presented the Department of Public Works with three challenges to be solved. As he readily encourages new ways of solving problems, the Department has enthusiastically embraced these tasks. Stay tuned for changes coming your way!

**Challenge #1:** The City pays almost \$20,000 every month for trash going into the landfill. We know this amount *can be reduced* if every household were to increase their recycling. **Assignment 1:**

**Challenge #2:** This year there are 8 holidays that will impact the regular trash schedule. **Assignment 2:**

**Challenge #3.:** Maryland Dept. of the Environment has informed us they will no longer accept Yard Waste in plastic bags. **Assignment 3:** *Solved. See Pg.7*

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1. Explore ways to increase participation in household Recycling.
  2. Develop a trash collection schedule with less interruptions for residents.
  3. Find inexpensive ways for residents to dispose of Yard Waste that does not involve plastic bags.

**A Rating of 2 is GOOD NEWS!** Our local volunteer fire company, Susquehanna Hose Company, has received an **ISO rating of 2**. This is AWESOME news! **What is an ISO rating?** ISO stands for Insurance Services Offices which collects and evaluates information from communities in the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities. **What does this rating mean to you?** While not all insurance carriers recognize ISO ratings, many do and may give you **a discount on your homeowner insurance** premiums. It is not automatic so you have to call and ask. You are encouraged to do so because it may be a way for you to cut your costs and increase your disposable income.

### THE LAFAYETTE TRAIL

This three-mile trail begins here at the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House and winds through the historic district. As you follow the fleur de lis trail marker, you will travel by our museums, parks, marinas and over 800 historic structures within the old town area. This self-guided tour embraces our past and honors those who walked before us.

We hope you enjoy the beauty of The Lafayette Trail and this lovely place we call Havre de Grace.

Sponsored by: The Havre de Grace Historic Preservation Commission and The Harford County Realtors Association

### Lafayette Trail Dedication

March 25<sup>th</sup> - **Maryland Day** - a day of celebration!

Mayor William T. Martin, with Council Liaison to Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Monica Worrell, and Tom Coard, President of the Harford County Association of Realtors (HCAR), gathered for the official dedication of the Lafayette Trail. This dedication ceremony provided the opportunity to **thank the many volunteers from these organizations** who took on this painting project.



Look for these trail markers all around town.



Photo Credit: David Dawson

### Greening Our City



Havre de Grace celebrates 14 years as a Tree City USA through the Arbor Day Foundation



Please join the City of Havre de Grace Department of Public Works and the Havre de Grace Tree Commission for **two** Arbor Day activities on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, both at 10:00 a.m.

Students from the Havre de Grace Elementary School along with Public Works' staff will be planting 100 native species trees on City property as part of our stormwater treatment and urban forestry programs. **This event will be held in the Horseshoe Bend Park near Havre de Grace Elementary School.** This park can be accessed from Bloomsbury Avenue near Seneca Avenue, not far from the **Food Forest** recently started by the **Havre de Grace Green Team**.

In addition, Tree Commission members along with City staff will also be planting a tree in Tydings Park. This planting is in commemoration of Pastor Edward Heydt who served the congregation at Havre de Grace United Methodist Church for many years.

Both activities have been organized to celebrate the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the City of Havre de Grace being recognized as a Tree City USA through the Arbor Day Foundation. The City staff would like to thank all of the organizations and concerned citizens in our communities for their continued support and actions which are moving Havre de Grace forward with "greening up" the City.

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Noye at City Hall - 410.939.1800 x1128

### Citizens Against Trash - C.A.T. Club -

Helping to keep our City litter free!

1 hour every Saturday, Meet up at 8:30am at **Rochambeau Plaza** - located at corner of Washington, St. John & Green Streets -

All supplies for collecting litter are provided for you.



A great way to meet new people!

For more info: Call Al Peteraf 443-742-3352

### Community Garden Applications Now Being Accepted

For a \$40 annual fee, each gardener gets a sunny 10 x 10-foot plot, water, and mulch in a fenced area to grow their own produce. Plots are available on a first-come basis with locations at Market St., Seneca Ave., and behind the Community Center off Rt. 155.



Applications available at:

- City Hall, 711 Pennington Ave.
- Public Library at 120 N. Union Ave.
- email at [HdGGreenTeam@gmail.com](mailto:HdGGreenTeam@gmail.com)
- [www.hdggreenteam.org](http://www.hdggreenteam.org)



**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**8am - 4pm**

Rain date: Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

No cost to you to advertise, just call the *Visitor Center* at 410-939-2100 with your address and we'll add it to our listing.

Don't have a yard, but want to participate? You can rent space at 226 S. Union Avenue for only \$10\*

Contact Ron Browning at 410-939-6562

\*This Rental Fee will go directly to the Historic Preservation Commission of Havre de Grace.